

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Haiti Reconstruction and Reconciliation Fund

July 1, 1993

On June 25, 1993, the President signed Presidential Determination No. 93-28 on the Haiti Reconstruction and Reconciliation Fund. The determination, signed after careful consultation with the relevant committees of the Congress, waives legal restrictions on providing assistance to Haiti in order to provide up to about \$37.5 million from prior year Haiti foreign military financing and development assistance funds and from prior year Bolivia and Peru economic support and foreign military funds.

President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who requested outside assistance, including for military professionalization, in a letter to the U.N. and OAS Secretaries-General, has indicated his agreement with these broad objectives.

This assistance package is designed to support negotiations to restore democracy to Haiti and the implementation of a phased political solution. Disbursement will be carefully timed to support the negotiations and respond to concrete progress toward restoring democracy. The Department of State is notifying the relevant committees of its intention to carry out the reprogrammings this Presidential determination authorizes and will consult further with the Congress on the military assistance component of this assistance package.

Our current aid program in Haiti of \$52 million consists solely of humanitarian assistance, feeding and health activities, funneled through nongovernmental organizations. The new assistance package would provide continued support for the U.N./OAS International Civilian Mission (\$10 million), which monitors human rights in Haiti; economic support and stabilization once the democratic government of President Aristide is restored (up to about \$12.7 million); the beginning of an administration of justice program to strengthen democratic institutions such as the Justice Ministry (\$3 million), and including the creation and training of a new civilian police force (\$4 million) as well as a modest, nonlethal military professionalization pro-

gram to reduce its size and train it to address the needs of Haiti's society and missions set forth in Haiti's Constitution, particularly civic action, engineering, disaster relief, and coastal patrol (about \$2.1 million).

Remarks Announcing the Defense Conversion Plan and an Exchange With Reporters

July 2, 1993

The President. Good morning. On Monday, I leave for Tokyo for the G-7 summit, where the world's leading economic powers will seek to build a new era of global growth.

While international summits were once dominated by the drama of the cold war confrontation, today we compete in a quieter field, the world of global economic competition. Now that the cold war is over, we see the opportunity around the world and in this country to reduce defense spending rather dramatically and to devote our attention to rebuilding our country here at home. But we know now clearly, since defense has been coming down since 1987, that this is not an unmixed blessing in the short run for Americans here at home.

Among other things, reduced defense spending means reduced spending on defense contracts. And people, therefore, who work in defense plants are affected by it. And it is impossible to reduce the number of men and women in the armed services without an appropriate reduction in the base structure of the United States at home and abroad.

That is the difficult and painful, but important work the base closing commission has had to do. I have received their latest report, and I have decided to forward that report on to Congress. As I transmit that report to Congress, I am ordering an unprecedented Federal effort in the form of a new five-point program to ensure that when we close these bases we also open a new and brighter economic future for the affected workers and their communities. And this week my administration announced that we were going to shut down not only the bases implied in the base closing commission, but also some 90